

-37-

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A system, comprising:

a content information database which stores therein content information about contents associated with broadcast programs on a channel-and-time-specific basis that corresponds to a channel and a time of each broadcast program, said content information including at least one of content guide information descriptive of the contents and content location information indicative of locations of the contents on a network; and

a content selecting unit which searches in said content information database for the content information of a specific channel and a specific time in response to a request from a user terminal indicating at least one of the specific channel and the specific time in a direct or indirect manner, and provides the content information of the specific channel and the specific time to the user terminal.

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2. The system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a content providing server which provides the user terminal with the contents that correspond to the content information of the specific channel and the specific time.

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-38-

3. The system as claimed in claim 2,  
wherein the contents provided to the user terminal  
are identified by the content location information.

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4. The system as claimed in claim 1,  
further comprising a time marking unit which  
10 indicates a time of a present instant, wherein said  
content selecting unit searches in said content  
information database for the content information of  
the specific channel specified by the request from  
the user terminal and the specific time indicated by  
15 said time marking unit.

20 5. The system as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the specific channel and the specific time  
are stored as a current setting, and said content  
selecting unit searches in said content information  
database for the content information of the specific  
25 time of the current setting and a channel indicated  
by a request from the user terminal indicating a  
relative change from the specific channel of the  
current setting.

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6. The system as claimed in claim 1,

-39-

wherein the specific channel and the specific time are stored as a current setting, and said content selecting unit searches in said content information database for the content information of the specific channel of the current setting and a time indicated by a request from the user terminal indicating a relative change from the specific time of the current setting.

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7. The system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a content-selection user interface which communicates with the user terminal, and has buttons thereon for selecting channels, wherein pressing of one of the buttons results in the user terminal sending the request to the content selecting unit.

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8. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content-selection user interface has a button thereon for indicating a relative shift from a current time setting.

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9. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content-selection user interface has a

-40-

button thereon for indicating a relative shift from a current channel setting.

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10. A method of providing contents, comprising the steps of:

providing a content information database  
10 which stores therein content information about contents associated with broadcast programs on a channel-and-time-specific basis that corresponds to a channel and a time of each broadcast program, said content information including at least one of  
15 content guide information descriptive of the contents and content location information indicative of locations of the contents on a network;

searching in said content information database for the content information of a specific  
20 channel and a specific time in response to a request from a user terminal indicating at least one of the specific channel and the specific time in a direct or indirect manner; and

providing the user terminal with the  
25 contents that correspond to the content information of the specific channel and the specific time.

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11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of providing the user terminal with the contents identifies the contents by the

-41-

content location information that is included in the content information of the specific channel and the specific time.

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12. A system for registering content information, comprising:

10       a content information database which stores therein content information about contents associated with broadcast programs on a channel-and-time-specific basis that corresponds to a channel and a time of each broadcast program;

15       a registration request database which stores therein information about availability of sections in said content information database for registration of the content information, and further stores therein user IDs associated with the sections,  
20       said user IDs identifying users who has been registered for use of the sections associated with the user IDs; and

          a registration processing unit which searches in said registration request database to  
25       check whether a section of a specific channel and a specific time is available in response to a status inquiry from a user terminal indicating the specific channel and the specific time, and provides a result of the check to the user terminal.

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-42-

13. The system as claimed in claim 12,  
further comprising a registered user database which  
stores therein the user IDs of users entitled to  
register the content information in said content  
5 information database, wherein said registration  
processing unit searches in said registered user  
database for a user ID of a user in response to a  
registration request indicating the user ID that is  
sent from the user terminal in response to the  
10 result of the check, and accepts the registration  
request in response to finding of the user ID in  
said registered user database.

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14. The system as claimed in claim 13,  
wherein said registration processing unit stores  
information in said registration request database  
20 upon the acceptance of the registration request to  
indicate that the section of the specific channel  
and the specific time is allocated to the user of  
said user ID.

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15. The system as claimed in claim 13,  
wherein said registration processing unit stores  
30 content information in said content information  
database with respect to the section of the specific  
channel and the specific time.

-43-

16. The system as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein said registration processing unit stores  
content information in said content information  
5 database that is provided concurrently with the  
registration request.

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17. A method of registering a section for  
content information, comprising the steps of:

providing a content information database  
which stores therein content information about  
15 contents associated with broadcast programs on a  
channel-and-time-specific basis that corresponds to  
a channel and a time of each broadcast program;

providing a registration request database  
which stores therein information about availability  
20 of sections in said content information database for  
registration of the content information, and further  
stores therein user IDs associated with the sections,  
said user IDs identifying users who has been  
registered for use of the sections associated with  
25 the user IDs;

searching in said registration request  
database to check whether a section of a specific  
channel and a specific time is available in response  
to a status inquiry from a user terminal indicating  
30 the specific channel and the specific time;

providing a result of the check to the  
user terminal; and

storing information in the registration

-44-

request database to indicate that the section of the specific channel and the specific time is allocated to a user of a user ID in response to a registration request indicating the user ID that is sent from the user terminal in response to the result of the check.

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- providing a content information database which stores therein content information about contents associated with broadcast programs on a
- 15   channel-and-time-specific basis that corresponds to a channel and a time of each broadcast program;
- providing a registration request database which stores therein information about availability of sections in said content information database for
- 20   registration of the content information, and further stores therein user IDs associated with the sections, said user IDs identifying users who has been registered for use of the sections associated with the user IDs;
- 25           searching in said registration request database for at least one section that is registered for a user of a user ID in response to a request from a user terminal indicating the user ID;
- providing a search result indicative of
- 30   said at least one section to the user terminal if said at least one section is found as a result of the search; and
- storing content information in the content



-45-

information database with respect to a section of a specific channel and a specific time falling within said at least one section in response to a registration request that is sent from the user terminal in response to the search result.

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- a content information database which stores therein content information about contents associated with broadcast programs on a channel-and-time-specific basis that corresponds to a channel
- 15                   and a time of each broadcast program;
- a registration request database which stores therein information about availability of sections in said content information database for
- 20                   registration of the content information, and further stores therein user IDs associated with the sections, said user IDs identifying users who has been registered for use of the sections associated with the user IDs; and
- 25                   a registration fee charge unit which determines an amount of fees to be charged to the users who are registered in said registration request database for use of the sections in said content information database.

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-46-

20. The system as claimed in claim 19,  
further comprising a registered user database which  
stores therein user IDs and fees schedules  
associated therewith, wherein said registration fee  
5 charge unit refers to said registered user database  
to check the fee schedules of the users so as to  
determine an amount of fees to be charged to the  
users.

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21. A method of calculating registration  
fees, comprising:

15 providing a content information database  
which stores therein content information about  
contents associated with broadcast programs on a  
channel-and-time-specific basis that corresponds to  
a channel and a time of each broadcast program;  
20 providing a registration request database  
which stores therein information about availability  
of sections in said content information database for  
registration of the content information, and further  
stores therein user IDs associated with the sections,  
25 said user IDs identifying users who has been  
registered for use of the sections associated with  
the user IDs; and

determining an amount of fees to be  
charged to the users who are registered in said  
30 registration request database for use of the  
sections in said content information database.

-47-

22. A method of using an apparatus for  
indicating a broadcast channel of user preference by  
pressing one of buttons for selecting respective  
5 broadcast channels, comprising the steps of:

pressing one of the buttons to request a  
content associated with a broadcast program of a  
corresponding channel,

10 sending signals indicative of the pressing  
of one of the buttons from said apparatus to a  
computer connected to a network; and

receiving the content by the computer  
through the network.

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23. A database, comprising content  
information about contents associated with broadcast  
20 programs on a channel-and-time-specific basis that  
corresponds to a channel and a time of each  
broadcast program, said content information  
including at least one of content guide information  
descriptive of the contents and content location  
25 information indicative of locations of the contents  
on a network.